



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



July 18, 2013

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Members of the Civil Grand Jury:

**RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE
2012-13 LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY**

Attached is the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Department) response to the 2012-13 Civil Grand Jury Report recommendations. The Civil Grand Jury's areas of interest specific to the Department included: the Dual Track Career Path, training regarding the handling of mentally ill inmates, and improvements to our court lockups and station jails.

Should you have questions regarding our response, please contact Division Director Glen Dragovich at (323) 526-5191.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

A Tradition of Service

RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SHERIFF

SUBJECT: 2012-2013 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
DUAL TRACK AND TRAINING

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

The Sheriff's Department leadership must counter the negative bias of Patrol officers towards those officers assigned to custody. This will also be critical if large numbers of women stay in custody positions.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. It is anticipated that upon full implementation of the Dual Track Career Path, morale in both the Custody and the Patrol Divisions will improve, primarily due to the increase in opportunities for promotion and advancement into specialized units within Custody Division, and due to the significantly shorter time spent in a custody assignment by those deputies choosing to transfer to a patrol assignment.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

The Sheriff's Department in conjunction with the Board of Supervisors must come to a decision about MCJ. Many of MCJ's issues are unique to this facility. If problems at MCJ have to do with the architectural shortcomings, then funding needs to be provided to either rebuild or renovate the facility in accordance with current best practices. Different solutions may be needed for other large scale facilities like Pitchess Ranch or CRDF, as well as Court House Facilities.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation; a comprehensive review of the Department's current and future inmate housing needs is underway. In addition to the significant structural and design issues associated with MCJ, there is also a need for appropriate medical and mental health inmate housing.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

The Sheriff's Department should focus on keeping time spent in custody assignments to ideally no more than two years (for those wishing to go on Patrol) while increasing the learning opportunities while on custody assignment.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. It is anticipated that full implementation of the Dual Track Career Path will result in a significantly shorter mandatory custody assignment for those newly hired deputies who wish to transfer to a patrol assignment. The newly created Custody Training Bureau will enhance and standardize training opportunities throughout the division, and new job rotation policies limiting the length of time a deputy can remain in a specialized assignment will afford deputies the opportunity to gain greater job knowledge, experience, and expertise.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

The Sheriff's Department must increase training for Custody positions (post Academy). But assuming limited resources, leadership should receive increased training before new deputies. The Department must look for ways to break down training into smaller units and possibly encourage through incentives or promotion consideration, having deputies seek out education on their own time. The Department needs to resolve any labor issues that may hinder this goal.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. The newly established Custody Training Bureau offers a wide range of State approved classes, which address a myriad of training topics and areas. Classes are routinely updated or created to address identified issues within Custody Division. In addition, a large number of two hour Intensified Training Format (ITF) classes are taught at the facility level, negating the costs related to sending students to training off site for a full day. Custody Division policy mandates newly assigned sergeants and lieutenants attend Custody Incident Command School within the first three months of assignment to the division. The Custody Training Bureau is currently in the process of revising curriculum to formalize training for line supervisors on subjects such as handling mentally ill inmates, inmate extractions, and jail specific restraint techniques training.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5

The Sheriff's Department needs to mentor and model behavior more effectively. Custody assignment is an opportunity to learn more about gangs, criminal techniques, and criminal networks outside of the jails and how to cultivate potential informants.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. The Custody Training Bureau currently provides training related to jail gangs and their criminal behavior to newly graduated custody personnel during State mandated Jail Operation's School. In addition, the unit offers State certified Jail Gangs and Jail Intelligence Gathering classes on a regular basis.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6

The Sheriff's Department in conjunction with the Department of Health needs to significantly increase mental health training Department-wide. The Department needs to work with other entities (Department of Mental Health, the county's e-education system, non-profits and private enterprise) to come up with ways to disseminate this training without causing positions to be backfilled while officers attend the training. Specifically, more needs to be taught relating to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), trauma and the behaviors that may result as well as de-escalation techniques.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. In conjunction with the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Custody Training Bureau currently provides mental health training to all newly assigned custody personnel. In addition, the Custody Training Bureau partnered with DMH to create and upload e-learning mental health training videos, which are available to personnel without having to leave their workstations. The Custody Training Bureau is currently participating in a Custody Division-wide process that is focusing on the expansion of our training curriculum and partnering with mental health professionals.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 7

The Sheriff's Department must provide deputies who work directly with the mentally ill extensive, specialized training. This training should emphasize recognizing, reacting to, de-escalating and preventing aggressive and hostile behavior that can occur in these settings.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. The Custody Training Bureau is currently participating in a Custody Division-wide process that is focusing on the expansion of our mental health training curriculum and partnering with mental health professionals.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 8

The Sheriff's Department needs to use more Custody Assistants and investigate possibly contracting with private security forces for Type I facilities. It should also investigate using orderlies and specialized health care workers when dealing with mentally ill inmates.

RESPONSE

The Department generally agrees with this recommendation. For years, the Sheriff's Department has utilized Custody Assistants in Type I facilities (station jails),

incorporating them into all available positions within the scope of their classification. Some of these positions include duties such as: booking, processing, providing security, and ensuring compliance with Title 15 standards. The Sheriff's Department has studied the feasibility of further civilianization since the late 1990s, and in conjunction with employee bargaining units, continues to explore additional responsibilities for this classification.

The Sheriff's Department continues to work toward providing the best resources and care available to its inmate population. Most recently, members from Custody Division and the Department of Mental Health reviewed methods of improving the care provided to the mentally ill population. In August 2012, these Department members met with staff from Patton State Hospital to discuss means of improving our assessments, training, force, and prevention plans. Improvement has been achieved with the application of some of the information that was shared related to assessments and prevention plans. The feasibility of utilizing non-Department members to deal with the mentally ill population is not under consideration.

RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SHERIFF

SUBJECT: 2012-2013 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
DETENTION: ADULT FACILITIES

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.3

The Sheriff's Department should provide Sheriff's deputies with additional training for dealing with prisoners with mental health issues as detailed in this Grand Jury's Dual Track report.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. In conjunction with Department of Mental Health (DMH) personnel, the Custody Training Bureau currently provides mental health training to all newly assigned custody personnel. In addition, the unit partnered with DMH to create and upload e-learning mental health training videos, which are available to personnel without having to leave their workstations. The Custody Training Bureau is currently participating in a Custody Division-wide process that is focusing on the expansion of training curriculum and partnering with mental health professionals.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.5

The Sheriff's Department should take steps to insure that Courthouse facilities' video surveillance systems and cell doors that impair sightlines and visibility are upgraded.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. Courthouse facilities needing video surveillance systems and retrofitting of cell doors require a feasibility proposal, as well as a proposed cost from the Department of Public Works. Facilities Planning Bureau will initiate this process.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.7

East Los Angeles Station – (LASD) (A32)

Padded flooring should be installed in the sobering cell and a separate telephone line should be installed for jailers.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. East Los Angeles Station's proposed sobering cell does not meet the Board of State and Community Corrections requirements, due to safety concerns regarding bars. The project scope must be expanded to include the installation of a solid wall and a door with view panel, as well as padding and a fire sprinkler system. Facilities Planning Bureau will initiate this process.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.8

Edelman Children's Dependency Court (LASD) (A33)

This adult facility has outer doors leading to the cells that have been inoperative for the past five years. This endangers the deputies every time they remove prisoners.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation; however, repairs to the Children's Court are the responsibility of the State courts. Facilities Planning Bureau will make contact with the State regarding this issue.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.9

El Monte (Rio Hondo) Courthouse (LASD) (A34)

Cells should be painted with anti-vandalism paint, enhanced video surveillance equipment should be installed, and cell doors should be retrofitted to improve visibility.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. Courthouse facilities needing video surveillance and anti-vandalism paint will be reviewed by Facilities Planning Bureau and renovations will commence when funding is available.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.11

Mental Health Courthouse (LASD) (A67)

This facility was well maintained for an older facility. Although 100% of the prisoner population had mental health issues, only one deputy had received more formal specialized training in mental health. All custody deputies at this and other facilities that deal with mental health issues should have such training.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. Court Services Division is working with DMH to provide additional training to the personnel assigned to this court. Court supervisors have conducted a review of each employee's experience and training in order to place them in the most appropriate assignment.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.12

San Fernando Court (North Valley District) (LASD) (A98)

The holding cells should be painted with anti-vandalism paint and improved surveillance equipment should be installed.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. Courthouse facilities needing video surveillance and anti-vandalism paint will be reviewed by Facilities Planning Bureau and renovations will commence when funding is available.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.13

Santa Clarita Valley Station (LASD) (A102) Adequate surveillance equipment should be installed; the video equipment for detainee-visitor visits should be repaired; and the facility should be upgraded to meet current Title 24 standards.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with this recommendation. A plan to replace Santa Clarita Valley Station is being developed. The new facility will contain appropriate surveillance equipment, video visiting for inmate visitors, as well as meeting all Title 24 standards. A survey for solutions to the aging infrastructure has been conducted; however, implementation requires funding.